

# NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

Ottawa, Canada

Winter 88/89

No. 1

## New Ottawa Women (N.O.W.): The Story So Far

It has been seven months now since the first meeting of New Ottawa Women, the support group for those individuals who prefer cross-dressing to the socially sanctioned alternative, and the membership is clamouring for a newsletter. Actually the members claim they've been clamouring for seven months and I'm only getting around to it now, but this is a charge I vigorously deny.

There are, however, some good reasons to issue our first letter now and the happiest one is our success. We have had about fifty people respond, mostly from the Ottawa area, the Valley and some as far away as Southern Ontario. Not all have attended our meetings of course, our largest turnout so far being twelve. Still, this was enough to fill up all available seats at Judy's house, with several lawn chairs standing by in reserve should they have been necessary.

We have expanded our monthly meetings to twice monthly, the first Saturday and the Wednesday which falls closest to the middle of the month. This we hope will allow more people to attend, as well as giving us another excuse to socialize in our skirts.

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An accredited chapter of The Society for the Second Self under the name Nu Omicron Phi.

"Clothing is not merely a covering of the body, but a vesture of the soul."

Encyclopedia Britannica

Judy has been hostess to most of these get-togethers, although we have for variety moved the event from time to time, an honour somewhat akin to hosting the Grey Cup game.

N.O.W. was established and continues to be primarily a social/support group. Our meetings are informal. This, I believe, has become our strength for many new friendships have been made and the unqualified support of the members for one another has laid the foundation for what we hope will be a durable association.

Should our membership con-



tinue to grow, we will sooner or later have to address the problem of finding more space. This will require that we devote more of our meetings to business, which in turn will likely lead us into a few minefields. Still, these are challenges associated with success and we welcome them.

For the time being, we are pleased with the progress we've made in seven months and excited by our potential. We urge those of you who have not yet attended a meeting to consider stopping by one evening. The group is stronger for your participation and all our members have benefited from the support and friendship of our young organization.



Girls just want to have fun. Some of the members on the occasion of our six month anniversary.

We would like to thank Gays of Ottawa for their time and the numerous referrals.

We welcome your correspondence. Write us at P.O. Box 7421, Vanier, Ontario. M1K 8L4.